

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
MARCH 8, 2006**

ITEM 7

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FUNDING FROM THE STATE WATER POLLUTION CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) FOR INVESTIGATION AND CLEANUP AT LINDSAY FOODS INC./CONSOLE FOODS INC., TULARE COUNTY

DISCUSSION

Lindsay Olive Growers, Inc. (LOG), in the City of Lindsay (City), processed, stored and packaged olives from approximately 1916 until 1992. During that time, discharges of salt and olive processing brine impacted soil and groundwater. In 1993, LOG filed for bankruptcy.

In 1996, Console Foods, Inc. (Console), proposed purchase of the plant for conversion to a vegetable processing facility. Prior to purchase, Console required a release of liability associated with the site. A Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Regional Water Board) Subcommittee and staff, Console, LOG and Creditor's Committee, the City, the Office of Attorney General, the Office of Permit Assistance, and the California Trade and Commerce met and decided that LOG would place \$250,000 into a special interest-bearing escrow account to be used on cleanup and abatement of the plant site as directed by the Central Valley Regional Water Board. Console ceased operations in 1998. In 1999 a bank took possession of the property, which was repurchased by Console, reopening the plant as Lindsay Foods International.

During three site assessments conducted between 1992-1995, analysis of groundwater monitoring well samples determined that concentrations of chloride in groundwater as high as 50,000 mg/L were present, which are some of the highest chloride concentrations in the San Joaquin Valley. In 1996, the estimated extent of the groundwater plume was 1,000 feet wide, 200-600 feet deep, and 600-1200 feet downgradient of the site.

Groundwater in the region is of very high quality, with chloride concentrations varying from 75-400 mg/L, and used as a source for drinking and agriculture. Approximately 15-20 wells exist within one-half mile of the site, and they are used for domestic, agricultural and industrial water supply. The City of Lindsay standby municipal drinking water well #11 is approximately one-quarter mile west of the site.

A Corrective Action Plan, dated May 10, 1996, was submitted describing soil and groundwater conditions, proposing remedial action plans and controls, cost estimates, and containing a

groundwater flow and transport model. A supplemental memorandum dated June 4, 1996, was also submitted describing one remedial alternative in detail.

Groundwater conditions were last assessed in 1996. A contract is needed to review existing information and propose a plan to (a) complete the hydrogeologic characterization, (b) determine whether local wells have been impacted, (c) install groundwater monitoring wells, (d) replace any impacted water supply wells, (e) monitor groundwater, and (f) propose remediation.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approve funding of \$320,000 from the CAA in support of the investigation and cleanup at Lindsay Foods International/Console Foods Inc.?

FISCAL IMPACT

A check in the amount of \$298,909 was deposited into the CAA from LOG for cleanup at the Plant site. An additional \$21,091 from the CAA is requested for a total of \$320,000. The CAA has an uncommitted balance of \$3,783,246 as of January 20, 2006.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT

Yes, the Central Valley Regional Water Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the State Water Board approve funding of \$320,000 for the Central Valley Regional Water Board to fund additional investigation and cleanup at local wells, which may have been affected by discharges from the Lindsay Foods International/Console Foods Inc. site in Tulare County.

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 2006 -**

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FUNDING FROM THE STATE
WATER POLLUTION CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT (CAA) FOR INVESTIGATION
AND CLEANUP AT LINDSAY FOODS INC./CONSOLE FOODS INC., TULARE COUNTY**

WHEREAS:

1. Lindsay Olive Growers, Inc. (LOG) processed, stored and packaged olives from 1916 until 1992. During this time, discharges of salt and olive processing brine impacted soil and groundwater;
2. In 1993, LOG filed for bankruptcy and 1996 Console Foods, Inc. (Console) purchased the plant for a vegetable processing facility and later changed its name to Lindsay Foods International;
3. During three site assessments conducted between 1992-1995, analysis of groundwater monitoring well samples determined that concentrations of chloride in groundwater as high as 50,000 mg/L were present, which are some of the highest chloride concentrations in the San Joaquin Valley;
4. Groundwater in the region is of very high quality, with chloride concentrations varying from 75-400 mg/L. Groundwater is used as a source for drinking and agriculture;
5. Approximately 15-20 wells exist within one-half mile of the site, and they are used for domestic, agricultural and industrial water supply. The City of Lindsay standby municipal drinking water well #11 is approximately one-quarter mile west of the site;
6. A contract is needed to review existing information and propose a plan to (a) complete the hydrogeologic characterization, (b) determine whether local wells have been impacted, (c) install groundwater monitoring wells, (d) replace any impacted water supply wells, (e) monitor groundwater, and (f) propose remediation; and
7. A check in the amount of \$298,909 was deposited into the CAA from LOG for cleanup at the Plant site. An additional \$21,091 from the CAA is requested for a total of \$320,000.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board approves \$320,000 to monitor wells and investigate, and remediate ground water affected by discharges from the Lindsay Foods International/Console Foods Inc., site in Tulare County.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Acting Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Board held on March 8, 2006.

Song Her
Clerk to the Board

